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HOUSE MEMORIAL 54

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005**

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A MEMORIAL

EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF AMBASSADOR FRANK V. ORTIZ.

WHEREAS, Ambassador Frank V. Ortiz passed away on Sunday,  
February 27, 2005, at the age of seventy-nine after suffering  
from cancer; and

WHEREAS, Ambassador Frank Ortiz was born on March 14, 1926  
in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Frank and Margaret Delgado Ortiz;  
and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Santa Fe high school at the age  
of seventeen during World War II, and since, upon graduation,  
he was not old enough serve in the armed forces of the United  
States, he alternatively worked as a public servant as an aide  
to the United States senate in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, immediately upon becoming eighteen years of age,

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1 he joined the United States air force and was shot down in a  
2 B-29 bomber over the seas off Japan on July 13, 1945; and

3 WHEREAS, after returning to the United States from the  
4 war, he enrolled in the Georgetown university school of foreign  
5 service, graduating in 1951, and later worked for nearly forty  
6 years in the American foreign service; and

7 WHEREAS, while working for the American foreign service,  
8 he served as ambassador to Barbados, Grenada, Guatemala, Peru  
9 and Argentina until his retirement in 1990; and

10 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the founding of the  
11 friends of the palace of the governors, which assisted in the  
12 obtainment of thirty-one million dollars (\$31,000,000) for the  
13 planned New Mexico history museum; and

14 WHEREAS, he served on the committee to create a monument  
15 to Spanish colonial families in Cathedral park and helped found  
16 Think New Mexico, a nonpartisan think tank; and

17 WHEREAS, he served on boards for the council of  
18 international relations, the North American institute, art in  
19 public places, St. John's college, the Santa Fe city library,  
20 the national dance institute of New Mexico and the New Mexico  
21 Hispanic cultural center and served as a trustee for Rancho De  
22 Las Golondrinas; and

23 WHEREAS, Ambassador Frank Ortiz was a self-proclaimed  
24 "ordinary kid from Santa Fe" who received the Chamizal  
25 commemorative medal from President Lyndon Johnson, the state

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1 department's superior service honor award, the unit superior  
2 honor award, a knighthood by the king of Spain and a knight of  
3 the sovereign order of Malta with the rank of pro merito  
4 militenses; and

5 WHEREAS, he will be remembered for his passion in  
6 preserving the rich heritage of New Mexico and will be missed  
7 by the Santa Fe community; and

8 WHEREAS, he was cherished by his family and friends; and

9 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Dolores Ortiz; four  
10 children, Christina, Frank, Stephen and Jaime Ortiz; three  
11 daughters-in-law; six grandchildren; and many relatives and  
12 friends;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that condolences of  
15 be extended to the family and friends of Ambassador Frank V.  
16 Ortiz.